

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Tomoru Teruuchi et al. Art Unit : Unknown
Serial No. : Not yet assigned Examiner : Unknown
Filed : January 23, 2002
Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ATTACHING ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE
TO DOCUMENT HAVING STRUCTURE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Amend claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 as follows:

3. An electronic signature method according to claim 1, wherein a rate of coincidence between the target document and the target document with an electronic signature is found from a rate of structural elements having authenticated electronic signatures to the whole structure.

4. An electronic signature method according to claim 1, wherein said concatenating step includes putting the generated electronic signatures in a row.

7. An electronic signature apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said means for concatenating puts the generated electronic signatures in a row.

8. An electronic signature apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:
means for analyzing the structure of the target document to verify the target document having the generated electronic signature; and
means for analyzing each of the electronic signatures of the structural elements of the target document.

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Add claims 11-20:

11. An electronic signature method according to claim 2, wherein a rate of coincidence between the target document and the target document with an electronic signature is found from a rate of structural elements having authenticated electronic signatures to the whole structure.

12. An electronic signature method according to claim 2, wherein said concatenating step includes putting the generated electronic signatures in a row.

13. An electronic signature method according to claim 3, wherein said concatenating step includes putting the generated electronic signatures in a row.

14. An electronic signature method according to claim 11, wherein said concatenating step includes putting the generated electronic signatures in a row.

15. An electronic signature apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said means for concatenating puts the generated electronic signatures in a row.

16. An electronic signature apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:
means for analyzing the structure of the target document to verify the target document having the generated electronic signature; and
means for analyzing each of the electronic signatures of the structural elements of the target document.

17. An electronic signature apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:
means for analyzing the structure of the target document to verify the target document having the generated electronic signature; and
means for analyzing each of the electronic signatures of the structural elements of the target document.

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18. An electronic signature apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:
means for analyzing the structure of the target document to verify the target document
having the generated electronic signature; and
means for analyzing each of the electronic signatures of the structural elements of the
target document.

19. An electronic signature apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said means for
analyzing the electronic signature determine a rate of coincidence between the target document
and the target document with an electrical signature from a rate of structural elements having
authenticated electronic signatures to the whole structure.

20. An electronic signature apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said means for
analyzing the electronic signature determine a rate of coincidence between the target document
and the target document with an electrical signature from a rate of structural elements having
authenticated electronic signatures to the whole structure.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application with claims 1, 5, and 10 being independent. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 have been amended to better conform to U.S. practice. Claims 11-20 have been added. No new matter is added.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be examined. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

January 23, 2002

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In the claims:

3. An electronic signature method according to claim 1 **[or 2]**, wherein a rate of coincidence between the target document and the target document with an electronic signature is found from a rate of structural elements having authenticated electronic signatures to the whole structure.

7. An electronic signature apparatus according to claim 5 [or 6], wherein said means for concatenating puts the generated electronic signatures in a row.

means for analyzing the structure of the target document to verify the target document having the generated electronic signature; and

means for analyzing each of the electronic signatures of the structural elements of the target document.

[illegible]